

2023.059

Call #: Isl. Ms. 209

Library: SCRC

Title: al-Shifā bi-ta'rīf ḥuqūq al-Muṣṭafá

Date: 1852/53

Place of Pub.: Istanbul

Pub./Manufacturer:

Author: 'Iyāḍ ibn Mūsá

Textblock

Dimensions: 209mm x 119mm x 23mm

Sewing: hand sewn

Paper Type/Quality: thin, burnished paper; textblock edges painted in repeating pattern

Endsheets: dark green pastedown and flyleaf with a painted pattern in green and gold paint that is a less detailed version of the cover's gold tooling

Inscriptions/ID marks: [439 T. De M.] in graphite at top corner of pg. 2

Image/Design Technique: Manuscript with illuminations

Medium: writing ink, primarily black but also blue, gold; illuminated elements painted with gold, blue, pink, red, green, and white are on pages 8, 9, 639, 640; text panels outlined in black and gold lines

Inscriptions/ID marks: none

Binding

Dimensions: 209mm x 123mm x 26mm

Covering: full green leather with fore-edge flap; two-piece board attachment technique

Spine: flat

Title/Label: none

Endbands: green and blue chevron; sewn-on

Boards: thin, dense, paper-based boards

Decoration: blind gold tooling on boards with repeating pattern

Current Housing: none

Previous Treatment: none

Historical Context

'Iyāḍ ibn Mūsá was a Spanish author, traditionalist and faqīh (legal scholar) of the Mālikī school. This manuscript is one of the author's best-known works and is a biography of the Prophet.

This book was bound using the two-piece technique with an envelope flap, which was a fairly common structure for Islamicate bindings. Preparing the binding separately from the textblock may have aided in the extensive gold tooling of the cover leather. This method also allows for more controlled positioning of the boards, unlike with a case binding. The envelope flap is one

of the most characteristic features of Islamicate bindings. It primarily was designed to protect the fore-edge as well as the entire textblock from deformation and dust.

Sources

Scheper, Karin. 2015. *The Technique of Islamic Bookbinding*.

Condition Report

Description of Book: Full leather binding with envelope flap. Boards are attached at the spine with the two-piece technique. The lower board was attached before the upper board. The sewing is likely link stitch sewing with 2 stations. Each section consists of five bifolia. The text is written within gold and black framed panels on thin, burnished paper. The textblock edges are painted in a repeating pattern similar to the patterning on the cover, pastedown, and flyleaves.

Binding:

- The upper board is completely detached.
- The leather over the outer corners of the upper board has worn away, exposing the board underneath, which is slightly delaminated.
- There are abrasions to the cover overall.

Textblock:

- Severe page splits along the gutter, top, bottom gold lining to pgs. 525-564
 - It is currently impossible to safely handle these pages
- Heavy creasing and tearing near gutter to pgs. 3-4, 644-46
- Small tears to pgs. 90, 192, 383, 456
- Small holes to pgs. 199, 225
- Ink fingerprint pg. 189
- Misnumbered pgs. 374-5, 376-7

Treatment Proposal

- Purpose of treatment: Item is extremely unstable and vulnerable to further damage. Treatment is intended to stabilize the item for gentle handling and to reduce the risk of material loss/dissociation.
- Surface clean with cosmetic sponges, avoiding media.
- Repair splits on pages 525-564 with tissue that has been pre-coated with Klucel G, reactivated with ethanol
 - Spot test media for solubility.
- Reattach board
 - Attach toned interior hinge under pastedown and on top of flyleaf
 - Attach toned hinge to outside, slightly overlapping with original material
 - Inpaint to match leather
 - Readhere lifted paper and leather with wheat starch paste

Treatment

- Surface cleaned with cosmetic sponges, avoiding media.
 - Loose fragments from textblock saved and stored in separate enclosure.
- Repaired splits on pages 525-564 with Tengucho tissue that had been pre-coated with Klucel G, reactivated with ethanol
 - Spot tested media for solubility.
 - Reinforced both sides of splits, starting with panel splitting at top and bottom, before moving to gutter region of text panel.
- Surface cleaned pages with cosmetic sponges, avoiding media.
- Repaired smaller tears to textblock with toned tissue and wheat starch paste
- Reattached board
 - Split board to insert outer hinge.
 - Toned outer hinge paper with acrylics.
 - Acrylics (Golden Hooker's Green, WN Prussian Blue, Golden Benzimidazolone Yellow Light, Golden Van Dyke Brown)
 - Golden Gel Medium - glossy
 - Attach toned hinge to outside with wsp, slightly overlapping with original material
 - Toned inner hinge paper with acrylics.
 - Acrylics (Golden Hooker's Green, WN Prussian Blue, Golden Van Dyke Brown)
 - Golden Gel Medium - glossy
 - Attach toned interior hinge with wsp under pastedown and on top of flyleaf
 - Additional inpainting to match leather color variation.
 - Readhered lifted paper and leather with wheat starch paste
- Treatment Photography.
- Rehoused in 4-flap enclosure.

Materials:

- Tengucho 3.5 g with Klucel G
- Kozo paper
- wheat starch paste
- Golden acrylic paint
- Golden Gel Medium - glossy

Time: 26.5 hrs

Start Date: 8/1 Finish Date: 8/25